



Friends of the Great California Delta Trail

September 26, 2011

Michael Machado
Delta Protection Commission
P.O. Box 530
Walnut Grove, California 95690

Dear Mr. Machado,

On behalf of the Friends of the Great California Delta Trail, I am writing to express my strong support and commitment for a National Heritage Area (NHA) designation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for which the Delta Protection Commission is conducting a feasibility study.

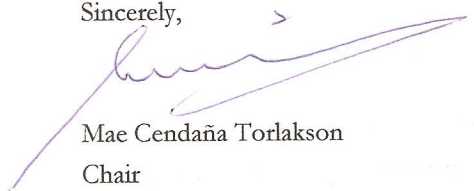
The Friends of the Great California Delta Trail can potentially serve as a partner for a Delta NHA by assisting the management entity with tasks such as local outreach including utilizing our website to raise public awareness about the NHA activities and partner sites – particularly sites that are adjacent to existing or proposed Delta Trail links.

The Friends of the Great California Delta Trail was developed to help gain community support and awareness for links of the Delta Trail. The Friends of the Delta Trail recognizes that there are unmet recreational needs throughout the Delta including hiking/biking trails, wildlife observation/education facilities, and historical/cultural interpretive facilities.

The Delta Trail and the Delta NHA are compatible in many ways, and both projects are valuable tools to help the Delta gain visibility as a destination for recreation and tourism activities, thus assisting with both economic development and public education. Since the Delta NHA is a community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development, it is imperative that there be public-private partnerships to support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects to tell the “Delta story”.

On behalf of the Friends of the Great California Delta Trail, I am writing to express strong support for a Delta NHA and look forward to partnering with the Delta Protection Commission to pursue this effort further.

Sincerely,


Mae Cendaña Torlakson
Chair

